

We claim:

1. A method of producing a local immunogenic response in a buccal mucous membrane, saliva, and lymph nodes draining said mucous membrane, the method comprising administering in the floor of a mammal's mouth a vaccine composition comprising an immunogen specific for a pathogenic agent having a gateway into the buccal mucous membrane, wherein a local IgA antibody and IgA antibody-producing B cell response is induced.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the IgA antibody is a secretory IgA antibody.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said administering is by sublingual injection, deposition, bioadhesive, or capsule that releases the immunogenic composition in the floor of the mouth.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the bioadhesive or capsule contains or is coupled to a system that promotes penetration of the immunogenic composition.
5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the immunogen is from a pathogen chosen from the group consisting of HIV virus, herpesviruses, candidae, hepatitis viruses, picornaviridae, reoviruses, adenoviruses, human papillomavirus, cytomegalovirus, Epstein-Barr virus, and aerosol transmitted pathogens.
6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the aerosol transmitted pathogen is selected from the group consisting of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Streptococcus* type B, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Bordetella pertussis*.
7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the herpesvirus is herpes simplex virus, the hepatitis virus is hepatitis A, the picornaviridae are poliomyelitis virus, the reovirus is a rotavirus.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the immunogen is from the HIV virus.
9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the immunogen is gp160.